

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear violation of the law under which they may freely use public airwaves. They have previously shown themselves to be acting against the public interest by a) censoring the airing of a non-partisan news program (Nightline with Ted Koppel) in which the public would be informed about the names of casualties in the Iraq war and b) denying the broadcast of political advertisements from only the Democratic party (with no equal action against other political parties).

The anti-Kerry documentary that they now intend to force onto the air (pre-empting the regular programs of their stations) is clearly an expansion and continuation of political attack advertisements by the political advocacy group "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth." In fact, several of the members of that group are core participants in the so-called documentary.

The FCC must not flinch in recognizing that this film is a FEATURE-LENGTH POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT, and as such it constitutes both a violation of federal election laws restricting campaign contributions AND at a minimum requires 45-minutes of time be given over to a response from the candidate who is attacked in the ad.

Remember, this so-called documentary features people who have been sworn political enemies of John Kerry since the early 1970s. This has nothing to do with reporting news in the public interest: this is not news; it is deceitful character assassination based in blind ideology not fact.